

Amendment to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1.(currently amended) An elongated handle ~~for (1), for a personal care implement such as a toothbrush,~~ having distal and proximal ends, the distal end being connected to, ~~or adapted to connect to, a grooming head (6),~~ the handle comprising:

- a) a first grip portion ~~(2),~~ adjacent the proximal end of the handle, for holding in the user's hand, the first grip portion having an ovoid cross-section which has a major axis and a minor axis; and
- b) a second grip portion ~~(3),~~ for manipulation by the user's fingers, extending from the first grip portion in the direction of the distal end of the handle, and having, at least in a region adjacent the first grip portion, an elliptical cross-section which has a major axis and a minor axis; and

wherein ~~characterized in that~~ the major axis of the second grip portion is perpendicular to the major axis of the first grip portion.

2.(currently amended) A handle according to Claim 1 wherein the ratio of the maximum length of the major axis of the first grip portion to the maximum length of the major axis of the second grip portion is from about 1.2:1 to about 1.8:1.

3.(currently amended) A handle according to Claim 1 wherein the ratio of the major axis of the first grip portion to the minor axis of the first grip portion is from about 1.4:1 to about 1.1:1.

4.(currently amended) A handle according to Claim 3 wherein the ratio of the major axis of the first grip portion to the minor axis of the first grip portion is from about 1.3:1 to about 1.1:1.

5.(previously presented) A handle according to Claim 1 wherein the first grip portion has a longitudinal length of from 50 to 100 mm.

6.(previously presented) A handle according to Claim 1 wherein the first grip portion is coated with elastomer.

7.(currently amended) A handle according to Claim 1 wherein the ratio of the major axis of the second grip portion to the minor axis of the second grip portion is from about 1.3:1 to about 1.1:1.

8.(currently amended) A handle according to Claim 1 wherein the major axis of the second grip portion has a maximum length of from about 8 to about 14 mm.

9.(currently amended) A handle according to Claim 1 wherein the minor axis of the second grip portion extends between top and bottom surfaces thereof and at least one of the top and bottom surfaces has gripping ridges ~~(7)~~thereon.

10.(currently amended) A handle according to Claim 1 further comprising a third grip portion ~~(4)~~distal the second grip portion~~(3)~~, the third grip portion being both wider and deeper than the second grip portion.

11.(currently amended) A handle according to claim 9 10 wherein the third grip portion is coated with elastomer.

Claims 12-14 (canceled)